



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10**

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OFFICE OF
ECOSYSTEMS, TRIBAL AND
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

April 20, 2009

Jeff DeFreest, Acting Ranger
Admiralty Island National Monument
8510 Mendenhall Loop Road
Juneau, Alaska 99801

**RE: EPA Comments on the Proposed Angoon Hydroelectric Project Final
Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) EPA Project Number 04-059-AFS**

Dear Mr. DeFreest:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the **final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the proposed Angoon Hydroelectric Project** in the Kootznoowoo Wilderness, Admiralty Island National Monument, Tongass National Forest, in southeast Alaska (CEQ No. 20090068). We believe the FEIS and Response to Comments address the majority of our concerns identified in the draft EIS regarding potential water quality impacts, including instream flow, turbidity and temperature, as well as impacts to aquatic habitat. We appreciate the additional analysis that confirmed water quality standards will not be violated under the preferred alternative, and the additional information related to air quality impacts and invasive species. We also appreciate the inclusion of two additional action alternatives (Alternatives 3 and 4) and the identification of Alternative 3 as the Forest Service's Preferred Alternative. We encourage the selection of Alternative 3 or 4 in the Record of Decision.

EPA also commends the Forest Service for incorporating tables to clearly contrast the impacts of all alternatives in the FEIS. We are pleased with Forest Service's willingness to allow a review period for the FEIS prior to issuing the Record of Decision. We realize that this process is a departure from the typical process typically utilized by the Forest Service.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the FEIS. If you have any questions or would like to discuss our review further, please contact Jennifer Curtis of my staff at (907) 271-6324 or curtis.jennifer@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/

Christine B. Reichgott, Manager
Environmental Review and Sediments Management Unit

cc: Michell Putz, USFS Tongass National Forest